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ABSTRACT

To investigate whether the structured and applied nature of a service learning method results in changes in knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding working with underserved populations, the Service Learning Instrument-Health Professional (SLI-HP) was designed. This instrument measures both student experiences and changes in attitudes, skills, and knowledge resulting from participation in the service learning model. In its pilot administration, the SLI-HP was completed by 53 health profession students. No problems were found with item clarity or respondent's answering. Reliability analysis for the 23 items of the pretest yielded an alpha of 0.85. Copies of the SLP-HP pretest and posttest are attached. (SLD)

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Service Learning Instrument-Health Professional (SLI-HP)

Tobin Lovell, Kelly White, Trent Thatcher, Amanda Mayle, Tonya Willis, Lisa Rambaldo, Kate Cauley, Carla Clasen, Cheryl Meyer

Service learning is an experiential, educational approach which integrates community service within an academic context. It emphasizes a balance between both community service and student learning, facilitates the process of orienting students to the diverse populations that they will serve, and provides students a opportunity to reflect on their experiences.

In order to investigate whether the structured and applied nature of a service learning method resulted in changes in knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding working with underserved populations, the Service Learning Instrument-Health Professional (SLI-HP) was designed. This instrument measures both student experiences and changes in attitudes, skills, and knowledge resulting from participation in the service learning model. The SLI-HP consists of both qualitative and quantitative response formats with the majority of the questions quantitative in nature. In its pilot administration, the SLI-HP was completed by 53 health professional students. No problems with item clarity or respondent's answering were reported. Reliability analysis for the 23 items of the pre-test yielded an alpha of 0.85.

As educational systems become more practitioner oriented, service learning opportunities become central to the academic experience. The SLI-HP measures the impact of this experience on the student and is a crucial addition to assessment inventories.

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Today's date _____

Course name/number _____ School/ Institution _____

Social Security Number (last four digits) _____

Center for Healthy Communities
Student Survey
Pre-Test

This survey is designed to measure student attitudes and perceptions of community service. Relying on your current feelings about the issues raised, please complete all parts of this survey answering each question as honestly as possible. Your responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your participation.

Please answer the survey questions relying on the following definitions:

Community Service: any activity in which a community work component was required that you performed for free.

Community Resources: social service agencies, churches, government programs, shelters, support groups, community clinics, or any similar organization.

Placement, clinical site, training site: All refer to work done for a course or class as part of a training program at a non-classroom site.

Demographics

1. What is your age? _____

2. Your gender (please circle the number which applies to you)
   1. Female
   2. Male

3. Your ethnicity (please circle all which apply) [optional]

   1. African American
   2. Asian American/Pacific Islander
   3. Caucasian or European American
   4. Latina/Latino or Hispanic
   5. Native American/ Alaskan Native
   6. Other (specify): _____

4. What discipline to you represent? (please circle the number which applies to you)

   1. Medical Student
   2. Nursing Student
   3. Psychology Student
   4. Dental Hygiene Student
   5. Dietetic Technology Student
   6. Physician's Assistant Student
   7. Social Work Student
   8. Other (specify): _____

5. How many years does it typically take to complete your academic program? _____

6. What year of your program are you currently in? _____

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7. What setting will this clinical/training experience be in? (please circle the number which applies)

1. Hospital
2. Community health center
3. School (K-12)
4. Clinic
5. Church
6. Private home
7. Extended care facility
8. Other (specify):_____

8. What is the length of this clinical training experience? _____

9. Prior to this placement, my training/clinical experiences through school have been in: (please circle all that apply)

1. Hospital
2. Community health center
3. School (K-12)
4. Clinic
5. Church
6. Private home
7. Extended care facility
8. Other (specify):_____

10. Prior to this placement, my training/clinical experiences through a prior job have been in: (please circle all that apply)

1. Hospital
2. Community health center
3. School (K-12)
4. Clinic
5. Church
6. Private home
7. Extended care facility
8. Other (specify):_____

11. Excluding school and work, in what types of settings have you volunteered? (please circle all that apply).

1. Hospital
2. Community health center
3. School (K-12)
4. Clinic
5. Church
6. Private home
7. Extended care facility
8. Other (specify):_____

Section I

Please answer the questions below using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

At this time,

_____1. I feel well prepared to practice my profession in a community similar to the community in which my placement is located.

_____2. I feel comfortable providing services to people from different ethnic and racial groups than my own.

_____3. I believe students should volunteer their time helping people without resources.

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Section I, continued

Please answer the questions below using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

At this time,

_____4. Upon graduation, I would like to work in settings where health care professionals are underrepresented.

_____5. Upon graduation, I would like to work in a setting with patients/clients of various cultural backgrounds.

_____6. Upon graduation, I would be interested in working on a multidisciplinary team (e.g., psychologist, physician, social worker, nurse practitioner, etc.)

_____7. I believe that health care professionals have a responsibility to volunteer for community service activities.

_____8. I believe that health care would be improved by the increased practice of multidisciplinary health care teams.

_____9. Health care professionals should always try to incorporate the patient/client's health beliefs/practices when planning treatment.

_____10. I feel that I can have a positive impact on the community in which I work by volunteering my time.

_____11. It is important for me to be involved in a program to improve the community.

_____12. Learning by doing is a necessary component for adequate training of health care professionals.

_____13. I believe it should be mandatory for health care professional students to participate in community service.

_____14. I feel that it is important to consider a wide range of health care practices (such as nontraditional practices) when planning treatment for my client/patient.

_____15. I believe that there are valid alternative health care beliefs/practices that may differ from traditional health care practices.

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Section II

Please answer the questions below using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Very willing	Willing	Somewhat willing	Neutral	Somewhat unwilling	Unwilling	Very unwilling

Post graduation, how willing would you be to:

_____1. Work on a multidisciplinary team?

_____2. Work at a community health clinic?

_____3. Work in a rural setting?

_____4. Work in an urban setting?

_____5. Work in a suburban setting?

_____6. Work in a private practice?

_____7. Work in a hospital?

_____8. Volunteer for community service?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire!

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Post-Test

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Placement, clinical site, training site: All refer to work done for a course or class as part of a training program at a non-classroom site.

Section I

Please answer the questions below using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

As a result of this clinical/training experience,

_____1. I feel well prepared to practice my profession in a community similar to the community in which my placement is located.

_____2. I feel comfortable providing services to people from different ethnic and racial groups than my own.

_____3. I believe students should volunteer their time helping people without resources.

_____4. Upon graduation, I would like to work in settings where health care professionals are underrepresented.

_____5. Upon graduation, I would like to work in a setting with patients/clients of various cultural backgrounds.

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Section I, continued

Please answer the questions below using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

As a result of this clinical/training experience:

_____6. Upon graduation, I would be interested in working on a multidisciplinary team (e.g., psychologist, physician, social worker, nurse practitioner, etc.)

_____7. I believe that health care professionals have a responsibility to volunteer for community service activities.

_____8. I believe that health care would be improved by the increased practice of multidisciplinary health care teams.

_____9. Health care professionals should always try to incorporate the patient/client's health beliefs/practices when planning treatment.

_____10. I feel that I can have a positive impact on the community in which I work by volunteering my time.

_____11. It is important for me to be involved in a program to improve the community.

_____12. Learning by doing is a necessary component for adequate training of health care professionals.

_____13. I believe it should be mandatory for health care professional students to participate in community service.

_____14. I feel that it is important to consider a wide range of health care practices (such as nontraditional practices) when planning treatment for my client/patient.

_____15. I believe that there are valid alternative health care beliefs/practices that may differ from traditional health care practices.

Section II

Please answer the questions below using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Very willing	Willing	Somewhat willing	Neutral	Somewhat unwilling	Unwilling	Very unwilling

Post graduation, how willing would you be to:

_____1. Work on a multidisciplinary team?

_____2. Work at a community health clinic?

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Section II, continued

Please answer the questions below using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Very willing	Willing	Somewhat willing	Neutral	Somewhat unwilling	Unwilling	Very unwilling

Post graduation, how willing would you be to:

_____3. Work in a rural setting?

_____4. Work in an urban setting?

_____5. Work in a suburban setting?

_____6. Work in a private practice?

_____7. Work in a hospital?

_____8. Volunteer for community service?

Section III

Please use the following scale to assess your level of **knowledge or understanding**:

1	2	3	4	5
No knowledge or understanding	Little knowledge or understanding	Moderate knowledge or understanding	High knowledge or understanding	Extensive knowledge or understanding

My knowledge/understanding of…	**Before this placement**	**After this placement**
1. The types of community resources available for the population with whom I worked	_____	_____
2. How health care delivery systems (e.g. managed care) impact my work in the community.	_____	_____
3. The health care needs of the community in which I served.	_____	_____
4. The responsibilities of other professionals in a multidisciplinary team.	_____	_____
5. The barriers to receiving health care in the community that I served.	_____	_____
6. The impact of socioeconomic status on health and illness	_____	_____
7. How my placement site is perceived in the community.	_____	_____
8. How to work with clients/patients who have various levels of health care knowledge.	_____	_____
9. What the terms "community resources" and "community service" mean.	_____	_____

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Section IV.

1. Please list the reflection activities (e.g., journaling, discussions, final integration paper, Q & A sessions, etc.) that you participated in throughout this experience:

2. Did you receive a formal orientation to your placement site before first reporting there for services? If so, please describe what type of orientation you received and who performed the orientation.

3. Do you feel you have acquired new skills or enhanced existing skills as a result of this experience? If so, what skills and how?

4. Do you think that you have gained unique knowledge from this clinical/training experience which differs from the knowledge that you gained in courses lacking an applied component?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire!

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